



# Administrative Memorandum

Administrative Memorandum 06-12  
December 2006

Nebraska Supreme Court  
Administrative Office of the Courts & Probation  
P. O. Box 98910  
Lincoln, NE 68509  
402-471-3730

*Michael G. Heavican, Chief Justice*  
*Janice K. Walker, State Court Administrator*  
*Ellen Fabian Brokofsky, State Probation Administrator*

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Administrative Memoranda available at [www.nebraskacourt.com](http://www.nebraskacourt.com) under "Court Administrator's Office" on the main page, left-hand menu.

## SPECIAL PROJECTS AND EVENTS

### Journalists & Judges Workshop Hosted in Lincoln

The Journalists & Judges Workshop held December 1<sup>st</sup>, grant-funded through the Reynolds National Center for Courts and Media and co-sponsored by the PEOPLE Committee and the judges of the Judicial Branch Education Committee, brought together 20 news reporters and over 20 judges for a day-long session.

The workshop focused on the balance between the first and fourth amendments: Protecting the rights of the accused while serving the public's right to know.

Follow-up activities are being planned through the PEOPLE committee and the Office of Judicial Branch Education.

## PEOPLE

### Probation Education Manager Selected

Monica Miles-Steffens has been selected as the new Probation Education Manager with the Office of Judicial Branch Education.

Ms. Miles-Steffens is currently an employee of the Nebraska Crime Commission where she has been a federal aid administrator since 1999. Prior to the Commission, she served as a juvenile specialist supervisor for the Lancaster County Youth Services Center from 1994 to 1999.

Miles-Steffens earned a bachelor's degree from Doane College and a master's degree from the University of Nebraska at Omaha in public administration with an emphasis on criminal justice. She will begin her new position January 2, 2007.

### Presiding Judges Appointed

The following county judges have been selected to serve as Presiding Judge for their respective districts for 2007:

- |                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup>  | Steve Timm       |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup>  | Robert Wester    |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup>  | James Foster     |
| 4 <sup>th</sup>  | Jeff Marcuzzo    |
| 5 <sup>th</sup>  | Curtis Evans     |
| 6 <sup>th</sup>  | Doug Luebe       |
| 7 <sup>th</sup>  | Richard Krepela  |
| 8 <sup>th</sup>  | Alan Brodbeck    |
| 9 <sup>th</sup>  | Graten Beavers   |
| 10 <sup>th</sup> | Jack Ott         |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> | Edward Steenburg |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> | TBD              |

## **In Memoriam**

### **Howard Kensinger**

Howard Kensinger, Budget and Fiscal Administrator for the Administrative Office of the Courts and Probation, died Monday, December 4, 2006. Mr. Kensinger joined the Nebraska Supreme Court in September 2005 and was responsible for analyzing and reviewing the budget for the branch. Prior to joining the Court, he worked at the Legislative Fiscal Office where he served as the senior budget analyst for criminal justice and public safety agencies.

### **Justice Leslie Boslaugh**

The Nebraska Supreme Court held a memorial service for Justice Leslie Boslaugh on December 4, 2006, in the Supreme Court Courtroom. A transcript of the proceedings is available of the Judicial Branch Web site at: [www.nebraskacourt.com/judges/ceremonies\\_supreme.htm](http://www.nebraskacourt.com/judges/ceremonies_supreme.htm).

### **Judge Jack Hendrix**

Former Red Willow County District Court Judge Jack Hendrix passed away Saturday, November 25, 2006, in Denver.

### **New Court Personnel**

Peggy Ruppert, Clerk Magistrate, Hitchcock County, District 11, effective December 22, 2006.

### **New Probation Personnel**

Susan Rutledge, Statewide Drug Testing Program Coordinator, effective January 2, 2007.

## **POLICY AND RULE CHANGES**

### **Mileage Rate to Increase**

Effective January 1, 2007, the standard mileage rate will be increased to 48.5 cents from the current rate of 44.5 cents. All other information regarding personal vehicle mileage remains the same.

## **PROBATION**

### **Community Corrections Programs Division**

*Introduction of Toni Ahrendt, Domestic Violence Services Specialist for Probation Administration*

Most people think they know the prevalence of domestic violence. Some statistics quote that 1 in 4 women will be victimized, while another breaks it down, saying that every 15 seconds a woman is battered. Many do not know however, that approximately 60% of men between the ages of 11 and 20 who are doing time for homicide have killed their mother's batterer. As this statistic points out, oftentimes domestic violence leads to additional criminal behavior. In addition, domestic violence not only victimizes women, but children, family pets, and society as a whole. The crimes are not always crimes of violence, but are emotional or verbal in nature. For this reason the actual rates of occurrence of domestic violence are difficult to calculate.

Since the mid 1990's, after the Violence Against Women Act was passed, domestic violence awareness has been increasing across the country. As a result of this awareness, the nation has experienced an increase in the number of abusers being arrested and convicted. Thus, the rates of domestic violence offenders being assigned to probation has significantly increased. The increase in these numbers has caused several jurisdictions across the nation to create a specific response/policy that guides work with domestic violence offenders and victims.

This is where I come in. My name is Toni Ahrendt, and I am the Domestic Violence Services Specialist for Probation Administration, funded through the Crime Commission's VAWA grant. I received a bachelor's degree in social work, and I am currently working towards a master's degree in social work, and one in public administration. I have worked with the issue of domestic violence, as well as other related issues, for five years. My work history has been in various settings, including the YWCA Omaha, The Shelter, and The Ponca Tribe of Nebraska. Additionally, I coordinated and facilitated a program for supervised visitation for the Ponca Tribe.

My work in the probation administration will encompass a variety of tasks. Initially, my focus will be directed towards the creation and implementation of policies and procedures for working with domestic violence offenders and victims to bring us into compliance with statute. In order to achieve this, I will be researching the approach taken in other jurisdictions, as well as, explore what has been working in Nebraska. I will be collaborating with statewide and local initiatives and agencies in order to create/maintain a comprehensive response to domestic violence. Additionally, I will assist the courts and probation with any training/technical assistance in relation to this issue. Please feel free to contact me with any questions/comments, or stop in to the Executive Building, Room 101, located at 521 South 14<sup>th</sup> Street in Lincoln.

Contact Toni Ahrendt, Domestic Violence Services Specialist, 402-471-2125, [tahrendt@nsc.state.ne.us](mailto:tahrendt@nsc.state.ne.us)

## CALENDAR ITEMS

### Judicial Branch Education Meetings/Trainings

February 7 - 9, New District Court Clerks' Workshop, North Platte

June 6 - 8, Official Court Reporters' Meeting, Norfolk

June 6 - 8, District Judges' Meeting, Norfolk

June 26 - 28, County Judges' Meeting, South Sioux City

Sept 19 - 21, Clerk Magistrates' Meeting, North Platte

October 17 - 19, NSBA Annual Meeting and Judges' Fall Education Seminars, Lincoln

Contact Carole McMahon-Boies, Director, Judicial Branch Education, 402-471-3072, [cmcmahonboies@nsc.state.ne.us](mailto:cmcmahonboies@nsc.state.ne.us)

### JUSTICE Training 2007

#### County Court Training Dates & Locations

January 8 - 11, Lincoln

February 12 - 16, North Platte

April 9 - 13, Lincoln

May 7 - 11, North Platte

July 9 - 13, Lincoln

August 6 - 10, North Platte

October 15 - 19, Lincoln

November 5 - 9, North Platte

#### District Court Training Dates & Locations

January 23 - 25, New District Court Clerk Training, Lincoln

February 21 - 23, District Court Training, North Platte

April 17 - 19, Lincoln

May 15 - 17, North Platte

July 24 - 26, Lincoln

August 14 - 16, North Platte

October 23 - 25, Lincoln

November 14 - 16, North Platte

Contact Marcie Luhman, Administrative Assistant, 402-471-2249, [mluhman@nsc.state.ne.us](mailto:mluhman@nsc.state.ne.us)

### 2007 Court Holidays

January 1, New Year's Day

January 15, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

February 19, President's Day

April 27, Arbor Day

May 28, Memorial Day

July 4, Independence Day

September 3, Labor Day

October 8, Columbus Day

November 12, Veterans Day

November 22 - 23, Thanksgiving Day & Friday following

December 25, Christmas Day